



## Celebrate The Week of the Young Child

### *"Children's Opportunities--Our Responsibilities"*

A young child's interactions with parents and caregivers have the potential to shape and promote that child's development for future success in school and in life.

**The Week of the Young Child**, held April 3 – 9, is an annual observance that focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognizes the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. One of the most important decisions many parents will ever make is choosing quality child care for their child. Recognizing the critical link between quality child care and the optimal development of its youngest citizens, North Carolina implemented the five star rated license for child care facilities in 1999. If you are a parent looking for child care, the NC Division of Child Development can assist you through our [Facility Search Site](#). To learn more about how you can observe **The Week of the Young Child**, go to <http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/>.

### **Important Links for Parents and Providers**

Remember that every child is special and unique and deserves the best start possible. Research tells us that a child's brain develops dramatically in the early years of life. For more specific information on early brain development, go to <http://zerotothree.org/brainwonders/index.html>.

For information about your child's development from ages birth through five, go to the Parent Page on the NC Smart Start web site at <http://www.ncsmartstart.org>.

For more information on health and safety issues for your children or for the children in your care, such as car seats, product safety and injury prevention, go the American Academy of Pediatrics at <http://www.aap.org>. Click on the link "Parenting Corner" on the top left-hand side of the page.

### **Important Links for Researchers**

For researchers seeking resources for state and local data on children and families, try these organizations:

Children's Defense Fund provides a number of reports about children and how states are meeting their needs. The web site is <http://www.childrensdefense.org>.

To receive information about key indicators of children's well-being, go to the Annie E. Casey Foundation and review their annual *Kids Count* report. This data is provided on a state-by-state basis. The web site is located at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/>.